

**EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE**

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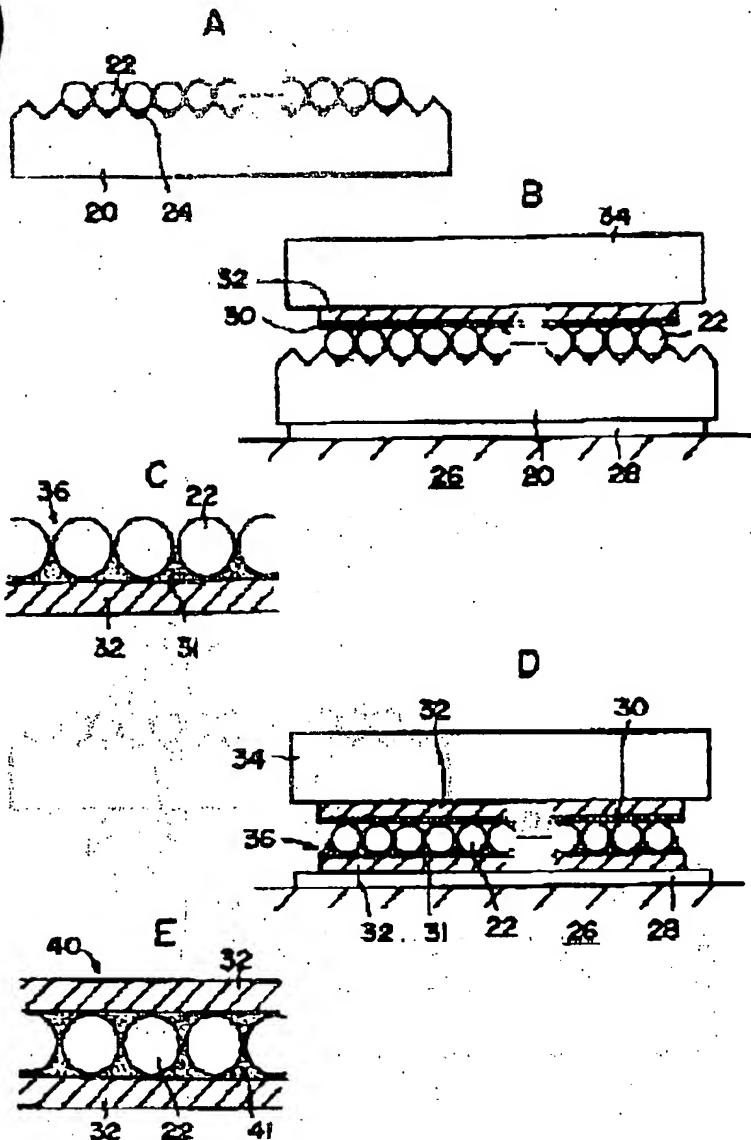
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GLASS CO LTD;

ATAKE;

J 2/44 B41J 2/45

OF ROD ARRAY



**PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED:** To make it possible to efficiently and stably arrange and fix  
good accuracy even if the diameters of the rods are reduced or the  
shape of the rods changes.

A grooved flat plate 20 formed with many shallow grooves 24 in which the  
active index rods 22 are housed in parallel at equal intervals is used. A rod  
arranging stage for supplying many pieces of the rods 22 to  
and housing the rods into the shallow grooves 24, a half embedding stage  
for heating a light opaque resin sheet 30 and frame plate 32 above the arranged rod  
array, pulling this resin sheet in a viscous state under heating to half embed the  
rods 22, and a complete embedding stage for heating the resin sheet 30 and frame plate 32 alongside the rods of a rod  
array in the half embedded state and pressurizing this resin sheet in the  
frame plate 32 under heating, thereby completely embedding the rods.